

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Office of Fire and Aviation
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To: State Directors

From: Director, Office of Fire and Aviation

Subject: Aerial Supervision

The Tactical Aerial Resource Management Study (TARMS) was chartered in 1996 by the Directors of Fire and Aviation, BLM and USFS and the Director of OAS. The mission of this study was to determine the most appropriate organization, staffing and aerial platforms necessary to safely and cost effectively manage and direct aerial fire suppression resources. The 1998 TARMS final report recommended the adaption and implementation of an Aerial Supervision Module (ASM). The ASM would include a person with extensive fire management training and experience teamed with a person who has extensive aviation/flight training and experience in the same aircraft. This module would essentially combine the Air Tactical Group Supervisor with the Airtanker Coordinator/Lead plane pilot. This configuration reduces radio frequency congestion, and permits the concurrent development of incident size up, the strategy and tactics and risk assessment by both fire and aviation experts simultaneously. The Aerial Supervision Module also reduces the number of supervision aircraft over an incident.

In 1999 the Aerial Supervision Module concept was evaluated operationally for BLM Fire and Aviation. Prior to the evaluation, ASM specific training was provided by the National Aviation Office and NIFC Training Development. The ASM training included Crew Resource Management (CRM) and in flight simulated missions for application of CRM principals to numerous tactical and flight objectives.

During the 1999 operational concept evaluation period approximately 800 hours of flight time were accomplished in support of incidents by BLM Aerial Supervision Modules. Performance of these modules was rated excellent on numerous initial attack and extended attack incidents. After review of the 1999 evaluation, the Aerial Supervision Module is the standard operational procedure for this BLM national resource. The attachment provides definitions for the two module types.

The BLM Aerial Supervision Modules are assigned to Alaska, California, Idaho/Utah, and Nevada. These States should include the Aerial Supervision Module in the FMAP for staffing approval by the National Office, Fire Program Management unless previously approved.

National Aviation Office focal points for the Aerial Supervision Module are Rusty Warbis, Air Tactical Pilot training, standardization and instructor pilot; Larry Mahaffey, Crew Resource Management (CRM); and Jeff Bass, Air Tactical Supervisor training, Aerial Supervision Operations.

Signed by:
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1 Attachment
Definitions (1 pg.)

Distribution

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DEFINITIONS

- ASM-1 Aerial Supervision Module type I- An aircraft that is staffed with a U. S. Government Air Tactical Pilot that is Lead plane qualified, and a qualified Air Tactical Supervisor. Both have successfully completed Aerial Supervision Module Crew Resource Management, and Operational Training. Are considered National Resources.
- ASM- 2 Aerial Supervision Module type II- An aircraft that is staffed with a U.S. Government Air Tactical Pilot that is Air Tanker Coordinator qualified, and a qualified Air Tactical Supervisor. Both have successfully completed Aerial Supervision Module Crew Resource Management and Operational Training. Are considered National Resources.